

DEC 18 2006

*Patent*U.S. Appl. Ser. No.: 10/054,638
Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2005**Amendment of the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): An immunological composition comprising a combination of two, three, or four distinct and separately made protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein each of the conjugates comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup of A, C, W-135 or Y conjugated to a carrier protein, wherein at least one serogroup is W-135 or Y.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 18, wherein at least one of the capsular polysaccharides is from *N. meningitidis* serogroup of A or C.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 19, wherein said at least one of the capsular polysaccharides is from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 19, wherein said at least one of the capsular polysaccharides is from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup C.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 18, comprising a combination of two distinct and separately made protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein said immunological composition comprises a the first conjugate comprises comprising a purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* serogroup W-135 and a the second conjugate comprises comprising a purified capsular polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of *N. meningitidis* serogroups Y, A and C. *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of serogroups Y, A and C.

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Claim 23 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 22, wherein the second conjugate comprises ~~a~~ the purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* of serogroup Y.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 22, wherein the second conjugate comprises ~~a~~ the purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 22, wherein the second conjugate comprises ~~a~~ the purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* of serogroup C.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 18, comprising a combination of said two distinct and separately made purified protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein the first conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup Y and the second conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroups serogroup A or C.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 26, wherein the second conjugate comprises ~~a~~ the purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 26, wherein the second conjugate comprises ~~a~~ the purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup C.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 18, comprising a combination of said three distinct and separately made protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein the first conjugate comprises ~~a~~ the purified capsular polysaccharide from *N.*

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meningitidis of serogroup W-135 and the second conjugate comprises a the purified N. *meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of Y, A and C and the third conjugate comprises a the purified N. meningitidis capsular polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of serogroup Y, A and C, wherein the second conjugate is different from the third conjugate.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 29, wherein ~~at least one of the second conjugate and the third conjugate~~ comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup Y.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 29, wherein ~~at least one of the second conjugate and the third conjugate~~ comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 29, wherein ~~at least one of the second conjugate and the third conjugate~~ comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup C.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 18, comprising a combination of said four distinct and separately made protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein the first conjugate comprises a the purified N. meningitidis capsular polysaccharide of serogroup W-135, the second conjugate comprises a the purified N. meningitidis capsular polysaccharide of serogroup Y, the third conjugate comprises a the purified N. meningitidis capsular polysaccharide of serogroup A, and the fourth conjugate comprises a the purified N. meningitidis capsular polysaccharide of serogroup C.

Claim 34. (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 18 further comprising an adjuvant.

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Claim 35 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 34, wherein said adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of aluminum adjuvant, Freund's adjuvant, (N-(2-Deoxy-2-L-leucylamino- β -D-glucopyranosyl)-N-octadecyldodecanoyleamide hydroacetate), (3- β -[N-(N',N'-dimethylaminoethane)-carbamoyl]cholesterol) "DC-chol", Poly[Bis(carboxylatophenoxy)phosphazene] and/or Poly[di(carboxylatophenoxy)phosphazene] "pepp", monophosphoryl lipid A, oligodeoxynucleotide motifs "CpG", ~~esponin adjuvants~~ "QG-21" "OS-21", cholera toxin, and formyl methionyl peptide.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 35, wherein said aluminum adjuvant is aluminum hydroxide.

Claims 37-45 (cancelled)

Claim 46 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 34, wherein said carrier protein is a single carrier protein species.

Claim 47 (cancelled)

Claim 48 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 46, wherein said single carrier protein species comprises an inactivated bacterial toxin from a bacterium selected from the group consisting of Corynebacteria diphtheriae, Clostridium tetani, Bordetella pertussis, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, and Escherichia coli diphtheria toxoid, CRM197, tetanus toxoid, pertussis toxoid, E. coli LT, E. coli ST, and Pseudomonas aeruginosa exotoxin A.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 48, wherein said inactivated bacterial toxin is derived from Corynebacteria diphtheriae diphtheria toxoid.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 48, wherein said inactivated bacterial toxin derived from Corynebacteria diphtheriae is CRM197.

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Claim 51 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 33, wherein said composition is formulated as a sterile liquid.

Claim 52, 53, 54 and 55 (cancelled)

Claim 56 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 33, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable preservative.

Claim 57 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 56, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable preservative is selected from the list group consisting of benzyl alcohol, parabens, thimerosal, chlorobutanol, and benzalkonium chloride.